

Message Text

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TO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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FOLLOWING REPEAT PARIS 16296 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO BONN,
LONDON, MADRID, BRUSSELS, ROME, COPENHAGEN, STOCKHOLM, BERN &
THE HAGUE DATED 3 JULY 1974 FOR YOUR INFO:

QTE

UNCLAS PARIS 16296

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH

SUBJECT: ESRO NAMES ACTING DIRECTOR

1. THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANI-
ZATION HAS APPOINTED MR. ROY GIBSON (UNITED KINGDOM)
AS ESRO ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL ON THE DEPARTURE AT THE
END OF JUNE OF RETIRING DIRECTOR GENERAL DR. ALEXANDER
HOCKER (GERMANY). THE COUNCIL HAS ENTRUSTED TO MR.
GIBSON THE FULL POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR GENERAL TO ENABLE HIM TO ASSURE
CONTINUITY OF MANAGEMENT BETWEEN HOCKER'S DEPARTURE
AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PROPOSED NEW EUROPEAN
SPACE AGENCY. MR. GIBSON HAS BEEN DIRECTOR OF ADMIN-
ISTRATION AT ESRO'S PARIS HEADQUARTERS SINCE JULY 1971
AND WAS FORMERLY AT ESRO'S SPACE RESEARCH AND TECH-
NOLOGY CENTRE, ESTEC, AT NOORDWIJK, NETHERLANDS.

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2. AFP, THE MAJOR FRENCH WIRE SERVICE, NOTES THAT

GIBSON'S APPOINTMENT DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN HE WILL
EVENTUALLY BECOME THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE PROPOSED
EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY (ESA). HE WAS RECENTLY NOMINATED
AS A CANDIDATE FOLLOWING THE IMPASSE THAT DEVELOPED
IN SELECTING BETWEEN THE FRENCH AND GERMAN CANDIDATES.
AFP QUOTES "INFORMED SOURCES" THAT THE POST REQUIRES
SOMEONE KNOWLEDGEABLE OF ESRO AND ITS PROGRAMS, THE IM-
PLICATION OBVIOUSLY BEING GIBSON. IRWIN UNQTE SISCO

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